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Remarks

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-23, drawn to a method of comminuting feathers, classified in Class 162, subclass 20.
- II. Claims 36-40, drawn to a method of forming a combined feather and paper product, classified in Class 162, subclass 2.
- III. Claims 24-28, 30, 41, 42 and 45 drawn to a sheet or paper containing product, classified in Class 162, subclass 100.
- IV. Claims 29, 31, 32, 43 and 44 drawn to a molded product, classified in Class 264.
- V. Claims 33-35, drawn to processing feathers with a cleaning agent, classified in Class 162, subclass 78.

Pursuant to this restriction requirement, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I (i.e., claims 1-23). Applicant respectfully submits that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The inventive products called for in claims 24-32 are unique to the method of Group I (claims 1-23) and the products of claims 41-45 are unique to the method of Group II (claims 36-40). As indicated in the specification at, for example, ¶ 27, the products produced by the inventive method are structurally unique, particularly with respect to consistency, uniformity, quality, and the ability to handle and use these products. The products claimed are unexpectedly and surprisingly

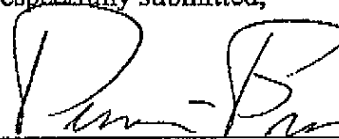
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superior to feather products produced before. Applicant is unaware of any other method heretofore known in the art which is effective for producing these unique products.

While the methods broadly called for in Groups I, II, and V are distinct one from the other, there is considerable overlap in the dependent claims thereof and Applicant respectfully submits that the prosecution thereof would be facilitated by joint examination.

This paper is intended to constitute a full and complete response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed October 1, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



10/30/03

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